A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 2. 1708

IN discourſing of the *Spaniſh* Affair, here is an ill-natur'd Queſtion ſtarted to me, *Viz. You taunt us here with the QUEEN being ſatisfy'd, and the Parliament voting, &c.* as to the Deficiency in *Spain, and you would knock us on the Head with great Names*; but, *what if the QUEEN is ſatisfy'd, and the Commons ſatisfy'd, the Nation is not ſatisfy'd*—— A Deficiency there has been, *we have been beaten, King Charles has not been ſupported*, the War *has not been carry'd on as it ſhould be, there muſt be Deficiencies ſomewhere, we are not bound to acquieſce in the Satisfaction of the great Ones*; it is plain, *the thing is not done.*

This, I find, is the preſent Uſe made of the Thing, and this is the Shift the clamouring Party are driven to; I ſhall ſoon drive them from this Retreat.

And firſt I'll grant, to pleaſe them, *however it may ſeem to juſtifie their want of Good Manners to the Queen*, That Her Majeſty's Satisfaction in this Caſe, without Reaſons *and Particulars too of the Grounds* of that Satisfaction, does not oblige us to be equally eaſie, or, in ſhort, that we are not bound to be ſatisfy'd, meerly becauſe her Majeſty is ſo; and this, I preſume, is as rude to the QUEEN, as their Hearts can wiſh.

Well, but has the QUEEN deſir'd you to take her Word, *tho' you can never reproach her Majeſty with the Breach of it hitherto?* Her Goodneſs prompts her to joyn her Subjects Satisfaction with her own, and the Words are expreſs, to let you ſee the Concern her Majeſty has, *firſt* for Juſtice, in examining the Fact; and *ſecondly* for her Peoples Satisfaction, in giving them all poſſible De-

Demonſtrations of what has been done, in order to carry on their Intereſt; her Majeſty has cauſed Enquiry to be made, to the End the ſame may be ſet in the cleareſt Light, for the Satisfaction of Her ſelf and her Subjects.

Her Majeſty does not ſay, She has cauſed Enquiry to be made, and being fully aſſur'd no Care has been wanting, *&c.* therefore her Subjects ought to be ſatisfy'd with that Aſſurance, and *a la-mode* the Language of *Verſailes, They ought to believe their Monarchs Care and Vigilance cannot be wanting in every due Application, &c.* or in the Language of the former Reigns here, *On our Royal Word, &c.* but *for the Satisfaction of her Subjects, her Majeſty has cauſed this Matter to be ſet in the cleareſt Light.*

There might be a great many uſeful Notes made from this Text.

1. That her Majeſty's Satisfaction is formed in the *ſetting Matters in the cleareſt Light*, a Thing, I muſt tell you, *England* for ſome Ages had not been us'd to; *our Monarchs Satisfaction* lay generally in ſetting their Affairs *out of the Light*, and covering their Actions with the thick Darkneſs of Court-Management, make their Subjects live by Faith on them that keep no Faith; but in juſt Governments you ſee it is not ſo, and it is for Want of looking back to *thoſe inſtructing Days*, that we do not know how to value *theſe*.
2. *Setting Things in a clear Light*, is the only Way to keep the Minds of the Nation eaſie, and keep the Perſons employ'd in the Adminiſtration ſafe; that Government, that on all Occaſions dares ſet their Actions in the cleareſt Light, can never ſuffer any Convulſions from Factions, Parties, Long-Speech-makers, or any Sort of Combination of Diſmals whatever.
3. Thoſe People, whom *a clear Sight of Fact* will not ſatisfie, are uneaſie from Cauſes, which they dare not ſet in a *clear Light* themſelves.
4. The People of *England* are always ſatisfy'd, when Things are *ſet in a clear Light*; and the Murmurs of deſigning Men, tho' they may do Miſchief, and may abuſe and impoſe upon a few, yet *a clear Light into Matters of Fact* never fails to undeceive and reſtore them.
5. How ungrateful to the QUEEN, and deſtructive to the publick Good, is it, for any Perſon to ſpread Suggeſtions and ſlanderous Reproaches upon a Government, who are always ready to ſet their Affairs *in the cleareſt Light*, and fairly leave all Miſmanagers to the Law?

I might make a long Sermon from this Text, but I think verily, the QUEEN has gotten an entire Victory over the *railing Spirit* of this Party, and that by one of the moſt generous, honeſt and prudenteſt Actions in the World, and therefore I need not enlarge; let their own Gall inſtruct them, and let them ſee their Crime in the Puniſhment, *Viz.* The juſt Contempt the Nation puts upon them, and the univerſal Satisfaction all honeſt Men have; *Firſt, in the thing it ſelf*, every honeſt Man receives a ſecret Pleaſure in finding, that let the Succeſs abroad have been what it pleaſes GOD, *for theſe Things are at his Sovereign Diſpoſe*— Yet 'tis plain, *no Care has been wanting at Home*, every one has diſcharg'd his Part; the Battle of *Almanza* was a Blow to us, which could not be prevented; the Parliament had indeed provided for a good Number of Troops, but that Proviſion was made but in *February*, and the Battle was fought in *April*; it was impoſſible to raiſe and furniſh the Troops, much leſs get them thither; what was poſſible to be done, was done, and Methods taken to procure foreign Troops, when it appear'd our own would be hard to raiſe, and no Body has fail'd in their Duty; what more could be done? Wiſe Men are always eaſie when they have us'd their utmoſt Endeavour, and no Men in the World can be anſwerable for Succeſs.

Secondly, In the obliging Manner, in which her Majeſty has treated even the Jealouſies of her People, that when by a partial ſtating the Matter of Fact to the Houſe, the People without Doors began to apprehend they had been abuſed, and the Nation injur'd; her Majeſty, inſtead of reſenting,

&c.

the Raſhneſs of their Temper, and expreſſing her Diſlike at their Rudeneſs in acting *Solomon*'s Fool, *to judge of a Matter before they hear it*, only calmly and cooly, and with a Goodneſs peculiar to Her-ſelf, cauſes the Matter to be impartially examin'd, and gives the Particulars in to the Repreſentative of *Britain*, and all this FOR THE SATISFACTION OF HER SUBJECTS.

And what's the Conſequence? Truly juſt what ought to be the Conſequence of an Action ſo truly great, *viz.* All her Majeſty's Subjects, that are honeſt and peaceable, that love their Country, and wiſh its Proſperity, are both ſatisfy'd and thankful; the Parliament, and in them the whole Nation, have in a moſt obliging Manner return'd their Thanks to her Majeſty, and none but our Enemies repine, and are uneaſie.

But now our Murmurers lay hold of two Things more to fill their Throats with Foam, and to ſupply their continual Croakings at the Government; and theſe are, *Firſt*, the Deficiency of the Allies; and *Secondly*, the ill Behaviour of our Sea Officers; and both theſe I ſhall ſpeak diſtinctly to in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have ſpent too much Time upon the Cavils of the *Rehearſals*, and I confeſs, when I view the End of his Diſcourſes, and the Manner, I own my Time ill ſpent to take Notice of his Paper; a Paper calculated to ſerve a Party, and yet highly ſcandalous to the Party it ſeems to ſerve—— For what can be more ſcandalous to the Church of *England*, than to accept of his Pretences to defend her, who himſelf has renounc'd her, and is of that Party that declares her Schiſmatical? Can there be any greater Reproach to the Gentlemen of the Clergy, than to ſee them wheedled by an Author, that would fain have himſelf acknowledg'd their Defender?

How, Gentlemen of the Church, this Man defend your Church, whom your Church has ſpu'd out as an Enemy to her Eſtabliſhment! Mark but the Circumſtances of the Man and the Paper.

'Tis written by a *Non-Juror*.
'Tis printed by a *Papiſt*.
Its Encouragers are the *Jacobites*.
And I'll prove its Contents to be High Treaſon.

Is this your Advocate, Gentlemen of the High-Church? Pray look upon the Object, look on him with Impartiality and Self-Reflection; do but ſee the Tools and Agents the *High-Flying* Cauſe is upheld by.

Well, then view the Manner. The Author has Cunning and Learning—and Reading, ſay they, and ſpeaks well—— So muſt thoſe Deluſions have had, that were to deceive even the very Elect, if poſſible; but with all his Reading and Learning, he is driven to the neceſſary Arts of Gavil and Sophiſms, omitting to anſwer, when any thing pinches him; paſſing over what he cannot defend, falſe repreſenting of Fact, and unfair Treatment both of Perſons and Things.

How often has he been deſir'd to prove that Aſſertion of his own, That we can have no Union in *England*, but a Union of Principles, to make us happy, but never will ſay a Word to it.

Now, how pitifully does he ſhift in his Union of the *Scots* and *Engliſh* Biſhops?—The Cover is too ſhort for the Bed, and the naked Legs of his adulterous Conjunction appear— He would have the *Scots* Biſhops, who reject the QUEEN, and diſown the Government, receiv'd as Part of the Church of *England*, but dares not tell us, what he means by the Church of *England*, for then the Church of *England* would ſee him unmask'd. The Caſe is plain, he means the *Non-Jurants* of the Church, who were depoſed by the Revolution; with theſe his *Scots* Biſhops being join'd, he forms his Church of *England*.

If he asks, How do I know he means thus? I ſay he can form no other Conjunction, that he can make rational——For he cannot joyn the Depoſed Biſhops to the Church they do not acknowledge— And let him conſtrue me, by telling us fairly, who they ſhould joyn with, if he can.

As to my Charges on him as above, I ſuppoſe, he will not put me upon the Proof of any but the laſt; and if he puts me upon that, let him but examine the Act of Parliament, which makes it High Treaſon to write againſt the Succeſſion, and he need not go far to make out his own Guilt, nor put any Man to the Trouble of the Proof; he ought rather to acknowledge the Lenity of the Government, who has ſo frequently ſuffer'd themſelves to be inſulted by him, without reſenting the Treatment they have had from him; I ſay no more, let him clear himſelf of it, if he can.

Mr. REVIEW,

I Have much wonder'd, that you, who give your Opinion ſo freely in other Caſes, have been ſo backward in this Particular; I have now ſent you three Letters, to deſire your Opinion about our Birmingham Prophets, for ſo we call them in Worceſterſhire— *We are very deſirous of your ſerious Thoughts about them, and believe, you may do a great Deal of Good in it, which Way ſoever you handle it. Pray oblige your Friends in it, with what Speed you can.*

Your humble Servant,

G. P.

I have often, before this, been prompted to give my Opinion of a new Sect of Men, newly riſen up among us, who pretend to Divine Inſpirations, vulgarly call'd Prophets.

A great many wiſe Men have ſpoken their Opinions in this Caſe before me, and perhaps what I ſhall ſay, may not pleaſe every Body; however, tho' I treat it in a different Method from what has been before me, I ſhall venture to ſay ſomething to them in my next, as my own Opinion in the Caſe, let the Iſſue prove as it will.

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